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**February 14, 2020**

The Daily Mississippian

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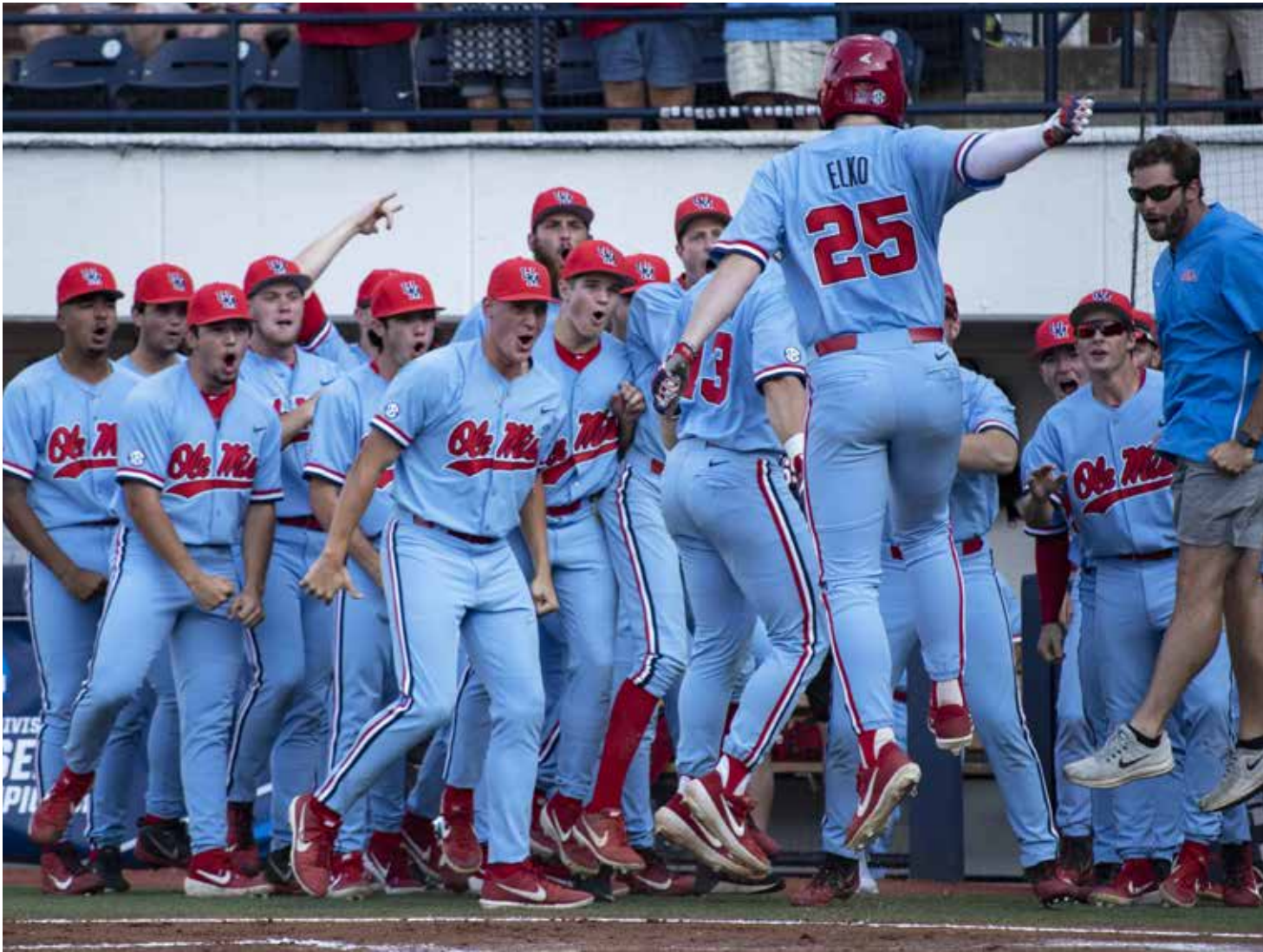
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## Back at Swayze



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

It's opening day. Ole Miss Baseball will see its first matchup of the season against the Louisville Cardinals at Swayze Field at 4 p.m. today. The Rebels and the Cardinals are both ranked in the preseason top 25, with the stable of Rebel pitchers including several experienced underclassmen and high-profile prospects from the No. 2 recruiting class in the country. Fans rushed to the right field on Thursday to set up tents and claim their spots for the upcoming season.

SEE **BASEBALL** PAGE 5

## ASB starts textbook scholarship for students

**ANNABELLE HARRIS**  
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Joshua Mannery, the Associated Student Body (ASB) director of campus outreach, introduced a new scholarship opportunity for students to help them pay for textbooks this semester.

Four recipients — Claudia Chambliss, Eliza Peters, Alexis Bass and Juanisha Finnie Kennedy — received \$250 each to either pay for or reimburse them for the money they had spent on textbooks and supplies this semester.

Mannery came up with the idea after seeing the impact and the success of the Parade of Beauties Scholarship, which is the entry fee and dress, funded by ASB.

“I appreciated the goodwill behind the (Parade of Beauties scholarship), but I realized that extending that idea to some issues on campus like affordability could potentially benefit a lot more students,” Mannery said. “So, I took the

first issues that kept coming back up in the discussions I was in, in this case textbooks, and ran with the idea.”

Mannery wanted to emphasize the positive effects this kind of scholarship has on students, providing them with the chance to offset the rising costs of college.

Mannery also sought to promote ASB, highlight the untold stories of certain students and focus on issues that are relevant to the average student.

The application process was simple, according to Bass, who was one of the recipients. She saw information about the scholarship on Instagram and decided to apply. She said the application required putting together a basic Google document about herself, including her major and what her plans are for her future.

Mannery said the application was open to all students. The Office of Financial Aid decided upon the recipients; two of them were chosen based on lead-

ership and merit, while the other two were based on merit and need for financial aid.

“So whether that was being a student leader, community change agent or even just someone who succeeded against hard conditions, we took all of that into account,” Mannery said.

Bass said she is grateful for the scholarship because it allowed her to be reimbursed for the money she had already spent on books.

“I was able to put the money into savings, and I will be using it next semester for books,” Bass said. “It helped a lot. I have already taken out so many loans for so many other things, I just wanted less debt. Books are expensive here.”

Kennedy, one of the other winners, agreed. She said she has spent over \$500 on books in previous semesters.

“It has been a blessing not having to

SEE **TEXTBOOKS** PAGE 8

## Sheriff clears local schools of threats

**Students report two threats of violence at Lafayette High School this week**

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The Lafayette County Sheriff's Department cleared Lafayette County Schools after they were put on a “low-threat” lockdown early Thursday morning because of threats of a shooting and bombing.

At 9:50 a.m. on Thursday, several Lafayette High School (LHS) students reported receiving a threatening picture through AirDrop on their phones. The message in the photo read, “I’m going to bomb all Lafayette schools today. Be careful and watch your back.” The Oxford Police Department, University Police Department and K-9 units then arrived at the high school to initiate a two-hour lockdown.

The sheriff's department had already increased law enforcement presence in and around Lafayette Schools as a precautionary measure after a shooting threat was found in an LHS boys' bathroom stall on Tuesday.

The message threatened a shooting and was written next to Thursday's date, according to a press release from the sheriff's department.

As a result, the sheriff's department decided to “increase law enforcement presence in and around Lafayette Schools as a precautionary measure,” the press release said.

“During the lockdown, we were a little shaken up. Teachers did not keep teaching, so we just talked and hung out through it. I assumed it was a false alarm, but we were still aware of how big (of) a deal it was because of how many officers were there,” Willa Burger, an LHS senior, said. “You just don't expect something like that when you walk into school in the morning.”

Once the lockdown went into effect, administrators notified parents that they could pick up their children if they were able to do so, according

SEE **THREATS** PAGE 8



# Mississippi floods

BILLY SCHUERMAN  
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A student watches the rain lash down outside of Martindale Hall on Wednesday. This February has already been the eighth wettest February in Mississippi since weather was first recorded in the state in 1896. Northern Mississippi has seen regional flooding as a result of the inclement weather including minor flooding in the Oxford area.



# Are honor societies too expensive?

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With over 30 chapters of honor societies on the University of Mississippi campus, students have a wide range of options for membership. However, the majority of these societies require payment for membership, which can hinder students' financial abilities to join.

With many of the societies at the university extending their invitations to new members in the spring, students are beginning to make the decisions of which to buy memberships.

"There are so many (honor societies) offered here, and I want to be in all of them, but at the same time, I don't have the funds to be in all the ones I want to," Kaitlin Haines, a junior accounting major, said. "You kind of have to pick and choose and decide which one is really beneficial."

Haines said the direct benefits of certain societies are difficult to quantify, and when she pays the money to join one, she wants to make sure it actively advances her academic career.

Honor societies on campus range in price from as low as a single \$25 payment, like Alpha Delta Lambda, up to \$200 annually, like Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Still, many of the societies do not list their required dues in their respective constitutions and bylaws or on their websites.

Ally Adcock, a sophomore exercise science major, is a standing member of Sigma Alpha Lambda — an honor society dedicated to leadership and service. She said the financial requirements have deferred her from joining more organizations that could potentially be beneficial to her.

"I don't agree that academic organizations on campus should require payment. They reach out to students and promote themselves, but then make students pay to get in," Adcock said.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is one of the less-expensive options, with a one-time \$75 membership fee, but Adcock said she sees how this could be exclusionary to students with little expendable funds.

Some societies like Phi Kappa Phi require students to pay by the year. Phi Kappa Phi requires an annual membership renewal fee. Members can choose to make payments of \$35 every year, \$60 for a two-year membership or \$90 for a three-year membership in the program.

Tony Ammeter, the current chapter president of Phi Kappa Phi, said the cost of membership goes directly toward the cost of

administration, the website and scholarship funds distributed at a national level. Additional funding goes toward covering local chapter events like spring and fall initiation ceremonies. The university chapter also gives discounts to students who can prove financial need.

Others, like Sigma Tau Delta, only expect a single payment at the time of application.

Sigma Tau Delta, an honor society for English majors, requires a \$60 membership fee at the time of applying.

Caroline Wigginton, associate professor of English and president of the university's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, said that to her knowledge, no student has ever deferred application to Sigma Tau Delta because of financial constraints.

Like other societies, though, Sigma Tau Delta provides scholarship opportunities to supplement students' abilities to pay.

"Generally, our membership is small — about 10 per graduation year. We consider Sigma Tau Delta to be the honor society arm of our undergrad English student group, Cover-to-Cover, which is open to all undergrads who enjoy literature and English. Cover-to-Cover engages in social and service activities," Wigginton



Above are nine of over 30 honor societies that have chapters at the University of Mississippi.

said.

She said that joining the group and paying the \$60 was worth it because of the community for writers it establishes and the opportunities it provides to serve that community and foster literacy.

In fall 2018, Nick Weaver, who was a member of the 2018-2019 Associated Student Body Senate, helped establish the ASB Honor Society Task Force to address the question of which societies are worth the cost.

While the task force did not specifically research the ability of students to pay the dues of an honor society, Weaver said he has recognized the prices that students have to pay to join an honor society can cause problems.

"I do believe their high costs can be a hindrance for low-income students at the university," he said. "I personally don't believe that every honor society on campus is worth the price of admission."

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# Edge and Thompson talk food in the true South

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John T. Edge knows good Southern food. In fact, he thinks that the food people eat and where they eat it tells a story. This is the premise behind his and Wright Thompson’s documentary series, “TrueSouth,” which recently concluded its second season.

Edge, three-time James Beard Award winner and the director of the university’s Southern Foodways Alliance, signed with ESPN to host the series on its channel. On Wednesday, he and Thompson, the executive producer and an Oxford resident, hosted a viewing of the episode about Memphis in the Barnard Observatory.

“I think a lot of TV gets the South wrong, especially TV that aims to tell a story of food in the South,” Edge said, “We try to come close to getting it right.”

Each “TrueSouth” episode explores a new city by picking two restaurants that explain the community’s personality and history. While Edge said his goal was to tell individual aspects of each city’s story, he faced expected challenges because of his difference in background from the people he spoke with in Memphis.

“We’re a largely white crew working with local black Memphis folk to tell a story

and be as honest about that as we can be,” Edge said.

One graduate student from Memphis who attended the viewing said that the documentary was not an accurate representation of her hometown.

“To me, it seems that it’s reinforcing some very negative images,” Jasmine Stansberry, a history Ph.D student, said. “I appreciate the documentary, but this is not my experience in the black Memphis.”

Stansberry said the imagery and language in the episode seemed to tell a monolithic story based on untrue stereotypes of black Southerners.

In the episode, Edge visits Lee Crumb of Pop’s Hot Tamales and Enkia Leach of Ms. Girlee’s, a soul food restaurant.

Edge portrayed Ms. Girlee’s restaurant as the welcoming side of Memphis — where customers go to feel like they belong.

“When our customers walk through this door, they are somebody,” Leach said.

Pop’s is shown through the lens of Mississippi’s influence on Memphis. Edge said the hot tamales sold by Pop’s are the most typical food in the Mississippi Delta.

Crumb was born in Mississippi but moved to Chicago during the Great Migration. After 20 years, he



PHOTOS: **NANCY MANROE**  
THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Above: John T. Edge is the host of “TrueSouth” an SEC television series that features different southern cities through their restaurants. Right: An attendee browses a collection of art featured alongside the “True South” event on Wednesday at the Barnard Observatory.



moved to Memphis, and said he has no interest in returning to Mississippi.

In the episode, Edge spoke with Zandria Robinson, a professor at Georgetown University who said many citizens of Memphis are directly connected to Mississippi by way of relatives. Robinson said this is another way in which

Memphis and Mississippi are directly intertwined.

“There are those of us who are constantly going back and forth home. We’re sending children down there for the summer. We’re going to the family reunions there,” Robinson said. “Then you have folks who have drawn a line at that state line, like Pop.”

Ultimately, Edge said Pop’s proves that “there’s no Memphis without Mississippi.”



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
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## RIFLE

# Ole Miss Rifle alum qualifies for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

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Ole Miss Rifle alum Ali Weisz's dream of becoming a member of the USA Olympic team became a reality last Sunday in Colorado. Weisz qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, which will begin at the end of July.

Weisz came in second place at the 2020 Air Rifle Selection Match with a total score of 2507.7. Her final score combined that from the first competition, which occurred in December, with her newest set of scores, which were recorded from the past weekend. Weisz finished sixth out of an eight-shooter round, ultimately giving her the additional 1.5 points that she needed to qualify.

"I actually didn't know it was official until after everything was said and done, and the USA Shooting National Rifle coach Dan Durben told me," Weisz said. "I could have known and followed what scores I needed, but my main goal for the entire match was just to focus on me and what I can control and shoot my match."

Alongside Weisz in the 2020 USA Shooting Team for air rifle is Mary Tucker, a freshman from the University of Kentucky. Tucker placed in the number one spot on Sunday with a score of 2513.0.

The two-time All-American's

**"Having a former athlete on the team go on and make the U.S. Olympic Team is another step in the right direction for the program."**

- Marsha Beasley  
Ole Miss head rifle coach

precision in the range contributed to her success on Sunday when she fired 48 out of 60 possible center shots and eight 10.7s and eight 10.8s.

"Having a former athlete on the team go on and make the U.S. Olympic Team is another step in the right direction for the program," Ole Miss head coach Marsha Beasley said. "I do think

that it says positive things about Ole Miss Rifle. Certainly, having one of our alums at the Tokyo Olympics representing the United States will increase awareness of Ole Miss Rifle.”

The USA Shooting Team will consist of eight athletes for rifle shooting, including four for smallbore and four for air rifle. A 50-meter smallbore and 10-meter air rifle competition will take place featuring men's, women's and mixed teams.

The only other member of Ole Miss Rifle to ever make an Olympic team was Tony Rosetti, who competed in the 1972 Munich Olympics in trap shooting. Since 1988, Ole Miss has had Rebels represent the U.S. in the Olympics in categories like track and field, women's basketball and shooting.

Weisz will stand among those eleven Rebel Olympians.

The Ole Miss Rifle team will host their final matches of the regular season this weekend at the Ole Miss Rifle Range. The Rebels will take on No. 4 Nebraska at 8 a.m. on Friday and host No. 8 Memphis at 9 a.m. on Saturday.



PHOTO COURTESY: OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ali Weisz will participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after qualifying for Team U.S.A. in the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru.

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# Meet the Rebels

## Can the pitchers navigate the toughest schedule in the country?

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Ole Miss baseball officially returns to Swayze field on Friday, and the stable of pitchers includes several experienced underclassmen and high-profile prospects from the No. 2 recruiting class in the country.

The Rebels will feature several impressive pitchers this spring, but the schedule will force them to play some of their best baseball immediately.

Preseason All-American Doug Nikhazy will return to the mound at Swayze after a record-breaking 2019 season. The sophomore set the Ole Miss freshman strikeout record with 86 last season, receiving freshman All-American and All-SEC honors.

The statistics were impressive, but Nikhazy has the attitude to match, making him the prime candidate to take over Friday’s starting position. Nikhazy has a shutdown mentality, and when he’s hitting his spots, it is hard to find a lineup that can get the best of him.

Head coach Mike Bianco confirmed that Nikhazy would not face suspension after he was



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss will feature a strong starting pitching rotation but faces one of the toughest schedules in the league.

charged with a DUI in Oxford last Monday, so he will start the season against a strong Louisville lineup. Bianco said Nikhazy’s punishment would be severe and handled privately.

Gunnar Hoglund, who made 16 starts last season to settle into the Sunday starter role, will take the mound on Saturday.e., Hoglund went 3-3 with a 5.29 in 68.0 innings in 2019.

The sophomore had an up-and-down season last year and will need to make a jump to get the Rebels through swing games throughout the season. Nikhazy’s heroics in that Saturday role last year were crucial; a breakout year from the righthander would help mightily this spring.

The young weekend rotation will be freshman righthander Derek Diamond. The Ramona, California, native was drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 40th round of the 2019 MLB draft. Diamond will pair slider with a fastball in the low 90s.

Bianco said the first-year starter set himself apart during camp and gained enough trust to take the Sunday position.

“Derek won the role because I think from start to finish — from September to last weekend — he’s probably the best performer of all the guys,” he said. “I think he gives us the best opportunity to win on Sunday. He looks the part (and) looks confident.

“That’s one of the challenges for the young kids. ‘Are you ready for this? Not just physically, but mentally do you believe you belong?’ I think he believes he belongs,” Bianco added.

Veteran relievers Austin Miller and Taylor Broadway will be in the bullpen for the Rebels while Max Cioffi and Greer Holston are expected to play major roles this season. Wes Burton also had an impressive spring.

The Ole Miss arms will throw to freshman Hayden Dunhurst. The 5-foot-11 catcher out of Carriere has impressed from the fall to spring practices with his power hitting and arm from behind the plate.

“He’s as good as any freshman catcher we’ve had right now,” Bianco said. “That’s in all the phases. He’s shown a great arm and great release this fall where he threw out a lot of baserunners.”

Dunhurst said he was not discouraged when he fell in the MLB draft before coming to Oxford.

“You can’t tell me that (you’re) not getting drafted, and you’re like, ‘Oh crap. Now I’ve got to go to Ole Miss to play baseball,’” Dunhurst said. “I mean, I had the two best options to go to.”

The rotation will face a tough test right away with No. 1 Louisville coming to town for the opening weekend. The series will start at 4 p.m on Friday.

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# Local pantry battles food insecurity in Oxford

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For some members of the Oxford-Lafayette community, the ability to purchase food is not their most pressing issue. For others, it's at the forefront of their minds.

This year marks the 17th Empty Bowls event, where members of the community gathered on Thursday to help the Oxford-Lafayette Pantry provide for those who are struggling with food insecurity.

To take part in the fundraiser, participants made a \$20 donation in exchange for unlimited soup, a bottle of water and a handcrafted bowl made by local potters.

Empty Bowls helps raise money to provide 40,000 meals annually to community members with food shortages or diet insufficiencies through the Pantry.

Dorothy Laurenzo, a



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Several iconic Oxford restaurants served a variety of soups for the Empty Bowls fundraiser. Empty Bowls helps provide over 40,000 meals annually.

committee member of the Empty Bowls fundraiser, has been with the event since the very beginning.

"We need (Empty Bowls)," Laurenzo said. "We need it and more. And we're lucky to have such a good food pantry that is

so well run and organized, and it serves people every week."

Laurenzo said that she believes this fundraiser is a way for the community to come together.

"The thing that's in the back of (participants') minds, is that no matter who they are, the reason they're there is to help those who don't have enough food," Laurenzo

said. "I think that brings the community together."

The Pantry currently provides food to around 500 families throughout Lafayette County every month.

The process of providing the food is often donation based, and the greatest portion of the Pantry's support comes from the Mid-South Food Bank and the Mississippi Food Network.

John Kohne, one of the coordinating directors for the Pantry, said there is always a need for fundraising. Some items, like flour and milk, are not able to be donated through networks. Events like Empty Bowls help the pantry to overcome this obstacle.

"Many people around the city (and) the town come out and support the Pantry by partaking and having their lunch," Kohne said.

Ann O'Dell, the chairman of the board of directors for the pantry, said the Pantry determines their clients according to USDA guidelines about food insecurity. Still, she reported that less than 15% of those who fall below the poverty line

in the community utilize the Pantry.

"So, the great majority of folks really have very limited income in this county are making do somehow," O'Dell said.

She explained that those in need of groceries who utilize the Pantry are often temporary visitors.

"Many of our people are elderly — on very limited income," O'Dell said. "We have a number of people who are disabled, either mentally or physically. Other people (are) ... caring for a number of grandchildren because the parents are addicted to some substance or are just not able to take care of the children."

O'Dell said she attributes the poverty in Lafayette County to lower wages, which produce the food insecurity that creates a need for the Pantry.

"I think the minimum wage is awfully low," O'Dell said. "It's mighty hard for people, even with two members of the family working, to provide for a family on two minimum wage jobs."

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66- Fiend;

**DOWN**

1- It's past due;  
2- Van Gogh had one later in life;  
3- Capote, to friends;  
4- Weightlifter's unit;  
5- Craftsperson;  
6- Marshal;  
7- Antlered animal;  
8- Legal science;  
9- "\_\_\_ had it!";  
10- Campers mattress;  
11- Tropical fruit;  
12- Bay window;  
13- Lubricates;  
21- Rotten;  
23- Woody's son;  
24- Hawaiian dances;  
25- Make into a statute;  
26- Tree of the birch family;  
27- School of the future?;

**SOLUTION TO 2.12.20 PUZZLE**

28- Encompassed about;  
29- Intro to physics;  
31- Noise;  
33- Falls short;  
34- Actor Ryan;  
35- Twilled fabric;  
36- Lets up;  
38- Petty quarrel, ejected saliva;  
41- Make \_\_\_ for it;  
42- Mail charge;  
43- Having knowledge;  
44- Naval rank, briefly;  
46- Cry \_\_\_ River;

47- Fancy pancake;  
48- Old cars, often;  
49- Interior;  
50- Amoeba-like alien: The \_\_\_;  
51- Metallica drummer Ulrich;  
54- Sun. talk;  
55- Honshu honorific;  
57- Lyric tribute;  
58- Rice or Curry;  
59- DDE's command;  
60- Nine-digit ID;;

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The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one business day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday.

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## SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

1					7	8	5	
7	8	4		3	5			
	9		4		2	3		
						5	2	
2	5						7	3
	7	9						
		1	7		3		4	
			9	1		6	3	2
	6	3	2					1

### HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL

**EASY**

1	8	7	4	5	2	3	6	9
2	3	6	8	1	9	7	4	5
5	4	9	3	6	7	1	2	8
8	9	4	1	2	5	9	7	3
3	7	1	6	4	8	9	5	2
6	2	5	9	3	7	8	1	4
7	1	3	2	8	4	5	9	6
9	6	2	5	3	1	4	8	7
4	5	8	7	9	6	2	3	1

OPINION

How athletics helps push out Confederate traditions

JOHN HYDRISKO

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There’s a story that all of us have heard and some of us have told, and it goes like this:

The University of Mississippi was once a great school. Its magnolia-shaded campus sheltered one of the few enduring pockets of a genteel and glorious South. But at some point — slowly at first and then all at once — the university was invaded by “elitist, liberal carpetbaggers” seeking to destroy the Southern way of life. They banned the display of Confederate flags in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, all but assassinated a beloved sideline mascot, took down the state flag and axed “Dixie” from the marching band’s repertoire. Now, these invaders have taken aim at a century-old statue. They’re hellbent on the total annihilation of this place, and it’s working. If one wants proof of our demise, he needs to look no further than our once-great, now-foundering football program.

This story is a good one, insofar as it serves the needs of those who tell it. But this story isn’t true.

The truth is that concern for our athletics program has been a cause — not an effect — of the university’s attempts to distance itself from a blatantly Confederate image. This is the case now, with the recent news that top university fundraisers — including Athletics Director Keith Carter — signed a memo in April of last year supporting the relocation of the Confederate statue. And this has been the case for the past half century as the university has gradually worked to divorce its athletics program from Confederate symbols. For more perspective on this history, I spoke with Alex McDaniel, deputy editor at SB Nation.

In the late ‘70s, Steve Sloan took over as head coach of the football team. He was the first coach to speak out against the use of Confederate symbols at football games, arguing that it hurt the university’s ability to recruit talented black athletes. No changes were made, but Sloan helped to start what would become one of the most important conversations in the university’s history.

In 1982, 20 years after James Meredith integrated the university, black students made up 40% of the football roster but just 7% of total enrollment. That year, John Hawkins — the president of the Black Student Union and the first black cheerleader at the University of Mississippi — refused to wave a Confederate

flag on the sidelines. “While I’m an Ole Miss cheerleader, I’m still a black man,” said Hawkins at a news conference. “It is my choice that I prefer not to wave one.” His decision brought on widespread anger from white students and alumni at the time. But today, the event is often cited as a turning point in the university’s attitude towards Confederate symbolism in athletics.

Throughout the ‘90s, football and men’s basketball coaches made the same argument that Sloan had made — Confederate iconography hurt their ability to recruit black athletes. Head football coach Tommy Tuberville believed this so strongly that he openly asked fans to leave their flags at home and visited fraternity houses to ask members to stop hanging them in windows. And many fans agreed. But many of them disagreed — of course — and continued to wave Confederate flags at games until Chancellor Robert Khayat famously banned sticks (and thus flags on flagpoles) from Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

In 1992, Tim Jones — a black member of the pep band —

“Every time this university has been forced to reckon with its Confederate past and present, it has chosen progress because of — and not in spite of — its vested interest in athletics.”

sparked controversy by refusing to sing “Dixie” in the Tad Smith Coliseum. At the time, the basketball program was attracting national attention under the leadership of Coach Rob Evans. This national attention, combined with the controversy, placed mounting pressure on the university to reconsider what place “Dixie” should have on game days. A decade after John Hawkins had declined to wave the Confederate flag, a young black man had once again forced the university to confront its racist festivities.

The decision to retire Colonel Reb as the sideline mascot did not occur in a vacuum. Of course, the moment was no doubt pushed to its crisis by the pressures of national attention that the football program had not felt in years. But behind those momentary pressures was a decades-long effort by the Lyceum to rid itself

— and especially its athletics program — of racist associations that were simply unbecoming of a public university competing at the national level. In 2003, Colonel Reb was retired. In 2010, his absence was replaced by Rebel, the Black Bear. In 2018, Rebel was replaced by Tony, the Landshark.

In the ‘80s, “Slow Dixie” became the fight song and remained so for decades. At some time around 2004, some fans began to chant “The South will rise again!” at the end of the song. This became especially vexing for the university when the football program had strong seasons, and the university received national attention. In 2009, Chancellor Dan Jones requested that the marching band stop playing “Slow Dixie” after fans refused to cease chanting at the end of the song. In 2016, after two exceptionally strong seasons under head coach Hugh Freeze, the university dropped all iterations of “Dixie” from game-day festivities.

It’s understandable why some might want to blame a shadowy cabal of outsiders for the changes that have been made on this campus. It’s an easy lie to believe. But the truth is that every time this university has been forced to reckon with its Confederate past and present, it has chosen progress because of — and not in spite of — its vested interest in athletics. Conversations about our troubled past and present might end with talk of dignity and inclusion, but they probably started with a much colder calculus of fundraising, recruiting and branding.

It’s deeply saddening and frankly embarrassing that this institution did not do the right thing for the right reasons a long time ago. But when principled concerns have fallen short, pragmatic ones have gained traction. Whenever the university clings to the Confederacy, it hemorrhages unknowable sums of cash, talent and respect — and the powers that be have known this for a long time. A University of Mississippi with Confederate flags and Colonel Reb and the state flag and “Dixie” would not only be morally bankrupt but perhaps actually bankrupt. Don’t forget that the next time you hear someone breathe the words “statue” and “football” in the same sentence.

John Hydrisko is a junior English, philosophy and history triple major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

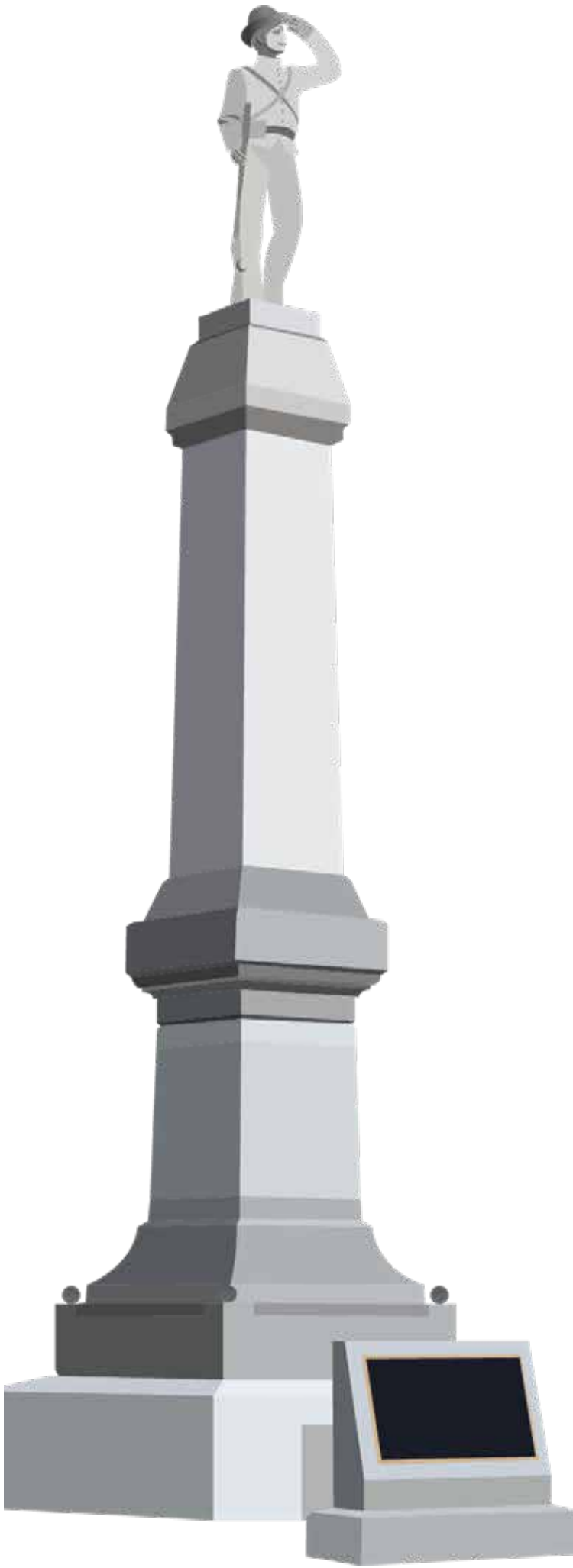


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## THREATS

*continued from page 1*

to a tweet from the Lafayette County School District Twitter account.

"There were lines of cars stacked (in front of the school). It was wild, I didn't even ask my mom to come to get me because of how long the line was," senior Sara Grace Moore said.

At 11:10 a.m., officers and K-9 crews finished scanning the premises and deemed the campus safe.

"They had two officers go in each room and scan for bombs. After two hours on lockdown, they cleared us and let us go back to class," Moore said. "I was pretty shaken up afterward, but happy that everything was okay. The students had pretty much cleared out by then."

LHS principal Glenn Kitch-



PHOTO: MASON SCIONEAX / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Lafayette High School increased law enforcement presence on Thursday because of a bomb threat.

ens said that the school will be conducting emergency drills tomorrow, which have been on

the calendar since last summer. He said that the high school has drills regularly.

Law enforcement is investigating these threats, though there are no known suspects.

## TEXTBOOKS

*continued from page 1*

(pay) out of my pocket to purchase textbooks this semester," Kennedy said.

According to an independent research firm, the Student Monitor, college students spent an average of \$205 on textbooks for the fall of 2019. Although that number has decreased from \$265 in fall 2018, students like Bass still feel the effects of the costs.

Mannery said he is proud of the steps the student government has been taking to fix student problems. Although he said they cannot solve the high prices of college overnight, Mannery believes that they are moving in the right direction.

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**March 18**

4 - 5 p.m. | Lamar 131

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